(b) Seismic surveys measuring about 3,800 std. line kms., have been carried out. A programme to drill 8 exploratory wells at a cost of Rs. 12.20 crores has been approved. The drilling has started in February, 87.

(c) The areas are:

Assam; Gujarat; Rajasthan; Tripura; West Bengal; Andhra; Himachal Pradesh Bihar; Orissa; Arunachal Pradesh; Tamil Nadu; Mizoram anad Nagaland.

Demand of petrol and petroleum products During 1986-87

662. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the demand of petrol and petoleum products in the country during the year 1986-87;

(b) what was the estimated production of petrol and petroleum products in the country during the same period; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The estimated demand for petroleum (MS) and other petroleum products and their indigenous availbility during 1986-87 are as under:—

(*Million tonnes*)

	Demand	Indigenous availability
Petrol (MS)	2.50	2.55
Other petroleum products	41.10	40.41

(c) The shortage is being met by imports.

Increasing the production of Petroleum products during 1987-88

663. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of import of crude and petroleum products is likely to increase in 1987-88 as compared to the year 1986-87;

(b) to what extent the demand is likely to be met by indigenous production and by imports of crude oil and what is the amount of foreign exchange required for these imports during 1987-88; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to increase indigenous production to minimise the import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The crude import Plan for 1987-88 has not yet been finalised and therefore it is not possible to indicate at this stage the size of the import bill during the year.

(c) Some of the steps taken to increase the production of crude oil in the country include intensification of exploration, use of enhanced recovery techniques and induction of advanced technology.

Exploring Hydrocarbons in the Konkan-Kerala off shore

664. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has proposed to

explore for hydrocarbons in the Konkan-Kerala off shore area; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One well in Cochin-High is planned for drilling during 1987-88.

Setting up New Refinery in Assam

665. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for setting up of a new refinery in Assam;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made up its mind, to set up the said refinery in the private sector only; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is not enough oil for another refinery in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) (a) to (d) In a statement made by the Home Minister in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha on 16-8-85 regarding the Assam Accord, it was indicated that the Government of India had agreed interalia to establish an oil refinery in Assam. The Government will render all possible assistance in terms of institutional and bank finance to facilitate the establishment of an oil refinery to facilitate the establish

(2) A study has revealed that it is possible to set up a new refinery in Assam with an initial capacity of 1 MTPA.

Shares held by Phillip Petroleum Company in Cochin Refineries

666. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Phillip Petrolem Company of USA has proposed to withdraw its shares from Cochin Refineries;

(b) if so, the details of the shares held by that company in the Refinery and the reasons for their withdrawal;

(c) whether Government propose to purchase their shares; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) M/s. Phillips Petroleum Company of USA holds 1,85,007 equity shares of Rs. 100I-each in Cochin Refineries Ltd. 26.43 per cent of the total paid up capital of the company. They have offered to sell these shares to the Government of India due to some of their internal corporate reasons. The offer is under the consideration of Government.

Fake LPG Connections

667. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang selling fake LPG connections in Delhi has recently been busted; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) During February, 1987, the Delhi police has registered, on the complaint of an LPG distributor, cases of forgery and cheating against certain persons